

Sunderland Board of Selectmen  
Monday, March 20, 2017  
Sunderland Town Office Bldg.

Attending: T. Fydenkevez, D. Pierce, S. Patch

Absent: Scott Bergeron

Others: B. Bennett, W. Powers, E. Crowe, A. Kajustras, F. Mozea, D. Fulton, Dr. Lynn Carey, Supt., P. Cavanaugh, K. Ferrandino, K. McCarthy, M. Shaw, J. Pierce, R. Dube, B. Barshefsky, G. Gottschalk, K. McFarland, M. Tomlinson, D. Modestow, K. Hand. L. Starr, B. Berry

Behind the Camera: FCAT

Meeting called to order at 6:43 PM.

#### Opening Remarks

- Mr. Fydenkevez announced that Mr. Bergeron is unable to attend the meeting this evening due to a work commitment.
- Mr. Fydenkevez acknowledged the passing of Mr. Thomas Herrick and offered a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Herrick.

#### FY 18 Personnel Advisory Committee Recommendations

- Mr. Pierce advised that the Personnel Advisory Committee has been reviewing non-union employees in comparison of the other towns. Also, reviewed was the annual COLA adjustment. The committee is trying to get a programmatic approach to review in place for reviewing non-union employees. The total impact to the budget (increase) to bring the positions looked at and a 2% COLA to all non-union employees would be \$41,377.54. Mr. Pierce acknowledged the difficulty of finding comp towns with similar positions.

#### FY 18 Budget Presentation Sunderland Elementary School and Frontier Regional School District

- The board met with members of the Finance Committee, School Committee, Business Manager, Patti Cavanaugh and Dr. Lynn Carey to discuss the Sunderland Elementary School and Frontier Regional School District's FY 18 budget requests.

#### FY 18 Frontier Regional School District Budget Request

- Superintendent, Dr. Lynn Carey gave an overview of the Frontier Budget Subcommittee process. Business Manager Patti Cavanaugh reviewed student enrollment and projections for next year. Ms. Cavanaugh stated that a significant bump is projected in 7<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment and that an additional middle school teacher may be needed next year. A 3% budget increase or \$311,859 over last year's budget is being requested. Also, noted was the addition of a School Resource Officer to the budget. Discussed possible donation (\$15,000) of a medical marijuana dispensary to be located in Deerfield to offset cost of the School Resource Officer. Dr. Carey advised that this matter will have to be taken up by the School Committee next year. Franklin County assessment increase due to increase in payroll. Hampshire County Insurance also a large increase in employee health and dental benefits. Ms. Cavanaugh noted a decrease in out-of-district tuition. Circuit Breaker determined through legislation. The School Department has been building new

programs at the high school with these funds so that students don't choice out. Currently there are 748 school choice students in at Frontier and 40 students out on choice. Charter students out is 42. Sunderland has 11 school choice students out and 8 Charter students, total 19 students. Cost for Sunderland students is \$215,021. However, because the regional agreement does not address charter and choice, charter and choice is distributed by agreement. Per the agreement Sunderland will pay \$243,922.98, which is \$28,902 more than if the regional agreement addressed charter and choice. Discussed regional transportation costs. Transportation costs are budgeted conservatively. Ms. Cavanaugh stated that 50% of what is reported on the end of year report is budgeted for the next year. A transportation revolving account has been established so that funds that are not used are returned to the towns at the same percentage given to the school. Mr. Fydenkevez expressed concern regarding the of the use of non-recurring funds and the impact on future assessments. Sunderland's FY 18 assessment reflects a 1.47% increase or \$25,047 over FY 17. Mr. Pierce asked if any new initiatives will be introduced. Ms. Cavanaugh stated that there are no new initiatives in the Frontier budget.

#### FY 18 Sunderland Elementary School Budget Request

- Superintendent Carey advised that the Sunderland Elementary School will be increasing the Pre-K program. Next year two class rooms will open. Seven special education within a class of 15 students 2 lead teachers. The program is a full day, five days per week program (8:30 a.m-3:00 p.m.) with a daycare option to 5:30 pm by tuition. Ms. Ferrandino gave an overview of the special education programs at the elementary school. Cost of special education students out-of-district can cost \$40,000 to \$110,000 depending on the student. Students at Sunderland Elementary School 257 this year next year projected 260. Mr. Barshefsky stated that they are pretty close to be maxed out at the elementary school. School choice out at Sunderland elementary School is 6-8 students. School choice in is 46 students. Ms. Cavanaugh noted that there was a loss of grant funds (Kindergarten) this year as well. Also, noted the increase in employee health insurance costs. The increase in the Sunderland Elementary School budget reflects a 7.81% or \$185,663 over FY 17. Mr. Fydenkevez noted the 18.6% increase in the Elementary School budget over the last 2 years.

*Note: FY 18 Sunderland Elementary School & Frontier Regional School District Budget requests incorporated in these minute.*

#### Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Mr. Pierce to accept the minutes of the meeting dated 3/13/17. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez. Voted 2-0.

#### Resignation

- Motion: Mr. Pierce to accept the resignation of John Santos from the Highway Department. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez. Voted 3-0.

#### Highway Superintendent Memo

- The board acknowledged receipt of a memo from Highway Superintendent George Emery requesting permission to fund repairs to the FL80 Freightliner through the Snow

& Ice budget. Mr. Emery noted that the ruck sustained damage to rear hub and three tires, which was caused by the heavy snowstorm on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion: Mr. Pierce to allow use of funds from the snow and ice budget pending receipt of final costs. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez. Voted: 2-0.

Adjournment

➤ Motion: Mr. Pierce to adjourn the mccting. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez. Voted 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sherry Patch", written over the typed name.

Sherry Patch  
Town Administrator